

Serial No. 10/021,016
Reply to Office Action of November 2, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-16, 18-26 and 29-32 were presented for examination and are pending in this application. In an Official Office Action dated November 2, 2005, claims 1-16, 18-26 and 29-32 were rejected. The Applicants thank the Examiner for his consideration and address the Examiner's comments concerning the claims pending in this application below.

Applicants herein amend claims 1-10 and 21 and respectfully traverse the Examiner's prior rejections. No claims are presently canceled and no new claims are presently added. These changes are believed not to introduce new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. The claims have been amended to expedite the prosecution and issuance of the application. In making this amendment, Applicants have not and are not narrowing the scope of the protection to which the Applicants consider the claimed invention to be entitled and do not concede, directly or by implication, that the subject matter of such claims was in fact disclosed or taught by the cited prior art. Rather, Applicants reserve the right to pursue such protection at a later point in time and merely seek to pursue protection for the subject matter presented in this submission.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and withdraw them.

Rejection of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-16, 18-26 and 29-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Netscape Application Builder, User Guide, 1999 ("NAB"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in light of the aforementioned amendments and the following remarks.

The claims as currently pending recite features not disclosed in the prior art. The Applicants' invention discloses and claims a run-time application platform for

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the operation of any commerce application. The application platform claimed by the Applicants lies between the commerce application software and the applications server to form a universal interface.

The Examiner refers to NAB as disclosing the present invention. NAB is an application development program that operates in a development-time environment. The present invention provides a run-time environment platform on which the application software may operate. As the NAB was written and developed by the assignee of the present invention, it is reasonable to assume that the present invention and the NAB are related. However, NAB is but one application building tool that can be used to produce applications operable on the Applicants' platform. While there are certainly similarities between the present invention and NAB, and applications built using NAB can operate on the present application platform, the present invention discloses and claims an application platform that provides a run-time environment compatible with a wide variety of computing environment and operating systems. Prior to the present invention, applications built using NAB were only deployable on the Netscape Application Server. See NAB C2-5. Other application builder tools known to one in the art shared this type of limitation, i.e. being restricted to a particular server environment. The present invention provides and claims an interface and functional support as an intermediate layer between the application software and the server to allow application software developed from various tools to be implemented on any server environment. Applicants respectfully submit therefore that the rejections of the pending claims based on NAB are without merit and respectfully request they be withdrawn.

In view of all of the above, the claims are now believed to be allowable and the case in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the

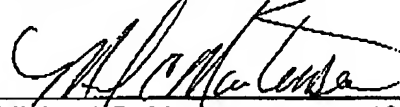
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prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

No fee is believed due for this submittal. However, any fee deficiency associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1123.

January 31, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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